

# York County Office of Emergency Management

## Annual Report 2015



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Cover picture courtesy the Evening Sun

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## **Vision**

It is the vision of the York County Office of Emergency Management to be recognized as the most professional, well respected, proactive, community and customer oriented municipal emergency management agency in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## **Mission**

York County Office of Emergency Management is charged with protecting the community by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to build, sustain and improve the capability to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism or other man-made disasters.

We undertake this mission with clear customer-focus and recognition that people are the most valuable asset. We value the contributions and dedication of the personnel who staff the emergency response and management systems. We employ and deploy the best available technologies in support of our mission.

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## Executive Summary

Fires and infrastructure issues were the incidents that kept our staff busy in 2015.

In the early morning hours of June 8, 2015 a fire broke out at Miller Chemical and Fertilizer in Conewago Township, Adams County. The business is located on the county line between York and Adams counties. Runoff from the firefighting efforts went into a tributary of the Conewago Creek. A large fish kill occurred in the Conewago, and both counties issued requests that people avoid fishing, boating and swimming in the creek.

Also, a large cloud of smoke drifted through nearby Hanover Borough and Penn Township. A shelter in place message was posted for those in a 1-mile radius.

Though the incident occurred in Adams County, the consequences of the fire mainly affected York County. John Eline, the director of the Adams County Department of Emergency Services, requested assistance from York County. The York County Hazardous Materials Response Team assisted at the scene. Also dispatched were the Mobile Command Unit and the county Public Information Officer. The two counties worked together along with DEP to mitigate the situation.



Courtesy York Daily Record

There were also several infrastructure issues that challenged the county. The Norman Wood Bridge, carrying Route 272 over the Susquehanna River between York and Lancaster counties, was closed on September 28, 2015 after an inspection found a large crack in a steel beam. It was reopened with weight restrictions on October 16. The bridge reopened to all traffic on November 2.

The closing caused significant issues as the bridge is the only local way to cross the river. Commuters and farmers faced significant travel times in the detour.

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On November 16, 2015 a truck carrying a track hoe struck the Burgs Lane bridge over US 30 in Hellam Twp. The bridge was closed on November 17 for repairs. All eastbound lanes of Route 30 were closed. Significant traffic delays and congestion were experienced. The bridge was reopened November 19.

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## 2015 Summary

### 1. Director

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is preparing for the arrival of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) within our borders at some point within the next few weeks or months. York County Office of Emergency Management along with the other seven South Central Task Force counties, the task force AG subcommittee and PA Department of Agriculture continue to plan and monitor in the event the influenza strikes our region. It is being recognized as the largest animal disease outbreak in U.S. history with detections on 231 premises, in 21 states, and 49.7 million commercial, pastured, and residential poultry lost. It is virtually impossible to predict when or where this virus will be detected in Pennsylvania; however, science suggests the virus thrives in the cooler and colder temperatures experienced in the fall, winter, and spring. This temperature drop, when combined with the locations of the last known HPAI detections and the migration patterns of the asymptomatic water fowl that spread it, puts Pennsylvania and its approximately 11,000 commercial poultry premises at a heightened risk level from now until late spring.

AI viruses can infect chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese and guinea-fowl, as well as a wide variety of other birds.

AI viruses can be classified as highly pathogenic (HPAI) or low pathogenic (LPAI) strains based on the severity of the illness they cause. HPAI is an extremely infectious and fatal form of the disease to poultry that, once established, can spread rapidly from flock to flock.

In 2015, PEMA Bureau of Financial Management conducted a Site Visit of the South Central Task Force counties on November 4th - 6th. This included reviewing SCTF's compliance with the Department of Homeland Security grant, state and federal regulations, and to identify any related issues or concerns. Although not an audit in the true sense of the term, the Site Visit has many of the same elements. This included a review of our operational procedures and an inspection of various equipment and resources in each of the SCTF eight counties.

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At the close-out briefing with PEMA , York County Office of Emergency Management and it's participating emergency responders are happy to report that the SCTF eight counties received no findings and came through the site visit with flying colors! In response to our program manager's question of what our score would look like if it was a letter grade, the PEMA lead auditor noted that "...It was an "A" grade with a gold star!"

Needless to say, our success is truly due to the professionalism and integrity of our Leadership Team. Special recognition needs to be given to each of our County EMA's for maintaining their respective equipment inventory system and the SCTF Logistics Planning Specialist for his efforts to both brief the PEMA staff and work with each of the counties on the myriad of "behind the scenes questions and issues" that are dealt with. The Site Visit also examined our financial records and processes, including the way we conduct our business. Again, SCTF is fortunate to have individuals who make everything come together with respect to our grants and financial process and documentation.

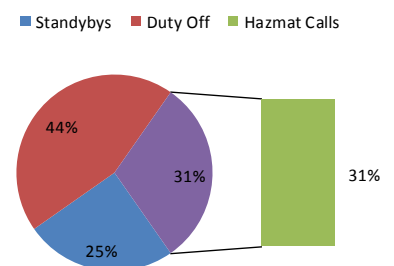
A number of you have heard our task force program manager say that "good things happen when good people come together." Our success as a regional emergency preparedness organization is directly due to the combined efforts of all of our Leadership Team.

## 2. Hazmat

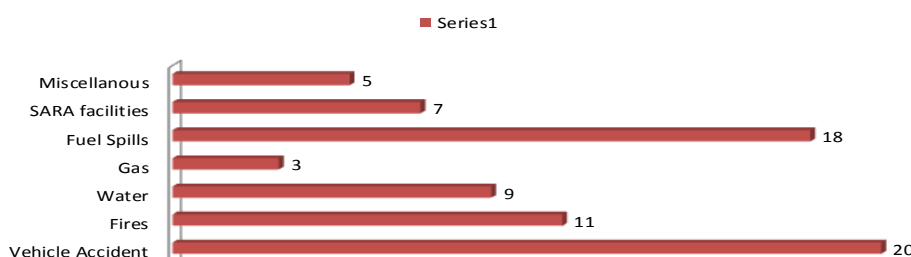
The Hazmat Team had 72 calls for the year. Thirty one percent were team responses, and 69% were for standby and duty officer calls.

Most calls have been transportation-related incidents, usually with fuel spills.

**Standby vs Duty Officers vs. Hazmat Calls**



**Types of Calls**





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The team recruited 2 new members this year. While membership has increased, the number of people responding to calls has decreased. This follows the national trend of public safety agencies losing volunteer participation.



Hazmat 911 participated in several exercises to maintain their skills. The team will begin planning this year to get ready for recertification in 2016

All equipment is calibrated and ready for service.

### **3. Municipal Planner/Trainer**

Local Emergency Management Coordinators attended 4 training sessions this year, in accordance with Part V Emergency Management Service of Title 35 Public Health and Safety. Work continues on updating and reviewing their EOPs. The EOPs for schools, nursing homes, daycares, and dams also continue to be updated and reviewed.



OEM participated in numerous public education events throughout the year. The focus was on maintaining an emergency kit, and developing an emergency plan.

### **4. Training and Exercises**

During 2015 the Deputy Director/Operations and Training Officer conducted training classes on Hazmat Awareness (DHMA) and Hazmat Awareness Refresher (DHMAR) for the County 911 staff. He also conducted

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Hazmat Operations Refresher (DHMOR) classes for local Fire Departments and conducted one Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) G-series Course. The table below is the Operations & Training Officer's Training Report:

Date	Class	Students	Hours	Total Hours
1/17/2015	DHMOR	22	6	1/17/2015
3/31/2015	DHMA	6	4	3/31/2015
5/2/2015	G 191	12	8	5/2/2015
6/23/2015	DHMAR	32	3	6/23/2015
6/25/2015	DHMAR	25	3	6/25/2015
6/30/2015	DHMAR	15	3	6/30/2015
7/2/2015	DHMAR	14	3	7/2/2015
8/21/2015	DHMA	12	4	8/21/2015

The OEM staff continued to pursue professional development activities. Bill James Received his Professional Staff certification.

## **5. Nuclear Planner/Trainer**

The department participated in the Three Mile Island Radiological Response drill, along with numerous federal, state, and regional partners. For many of those participating and receiving training, it was their first experience with a nuclear power plant exercise. Of particular note, were several staff members from a non-EPZ municipality who helped out a risk municipality with several EOC staff positions, including EMC, during the exercise. We also used a new location for emergency worker monitoring and decontamination with mostly new personnel. All first-time participants did an excellent job in contributing to a successful exercise.

Ten municipal EOCs, five school districts, and two monitoring/decontamination teams were trained in preparation for the Three Mile Island Exercise, resulting in 236 people versed in radiological response procedures in York County.

On the evening of May 21st, York County held a first for the County, After Action Conference for the 2015 TMI Exercise. All 11 municipal EOCs were

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invited, 10 were represented at the conference. Local Coordinators and anyone on their staff were invited to attend. The County facilitated the discussion. A hot meal was provided by the County and the Conference was held at a location central to all EPZ municipalities. These two factors seemed to greatly increase the participation at the municipal level.

The County began the session by stating the strengths and areas of improvement that were identified by County staff. Each municipality was then given the opportunity to share their perspective on the exercise and offer suggestions that would make things easier for them in the future. A lot of useful feedback was received and interesting ideas were shared. The dialogue was productive and not at all adversarial.

The Nuclear Planner/Trainer was involved in numerous exercises and trainings throughout the year to further enhance the County's readiness for a radiological event, including the State-sponsored RODEO, which focused on all types of radiological incidents.

York County participated in two MS-1 (Medical Support) drills, which allow hospitals and EMS personnel to be trained on and demonstrate the transport and treatment of potentially contaminated patients following a radiological incident. Hanover Hospital and Dillsburg EMS displayed the proper techniques for handling an injured evacuee from the TMI EPZ. York Hospital and Delta-Cardiff Ambulance completed the same objectives for the Peach Bottom EPZ.

## **6. SARA Planner/Trainer**

The SARA Planner/Trainer assisted with and participated in several exercises throughout the year with various SARA facilities. These exercises are designed to evaluate the facility's emergency plans.

The SARA Planner/Training, in conjunction with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) reviewed 98 SARA plans.

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## **7. Public Information Officer/Trainer**

The Public Information Officer serves as the Director of Communications for the County. As the lead County spokesperson, the Director of Communications handled hundreds of media inquiries in 2015 and developed dozens of press releases/announcements.

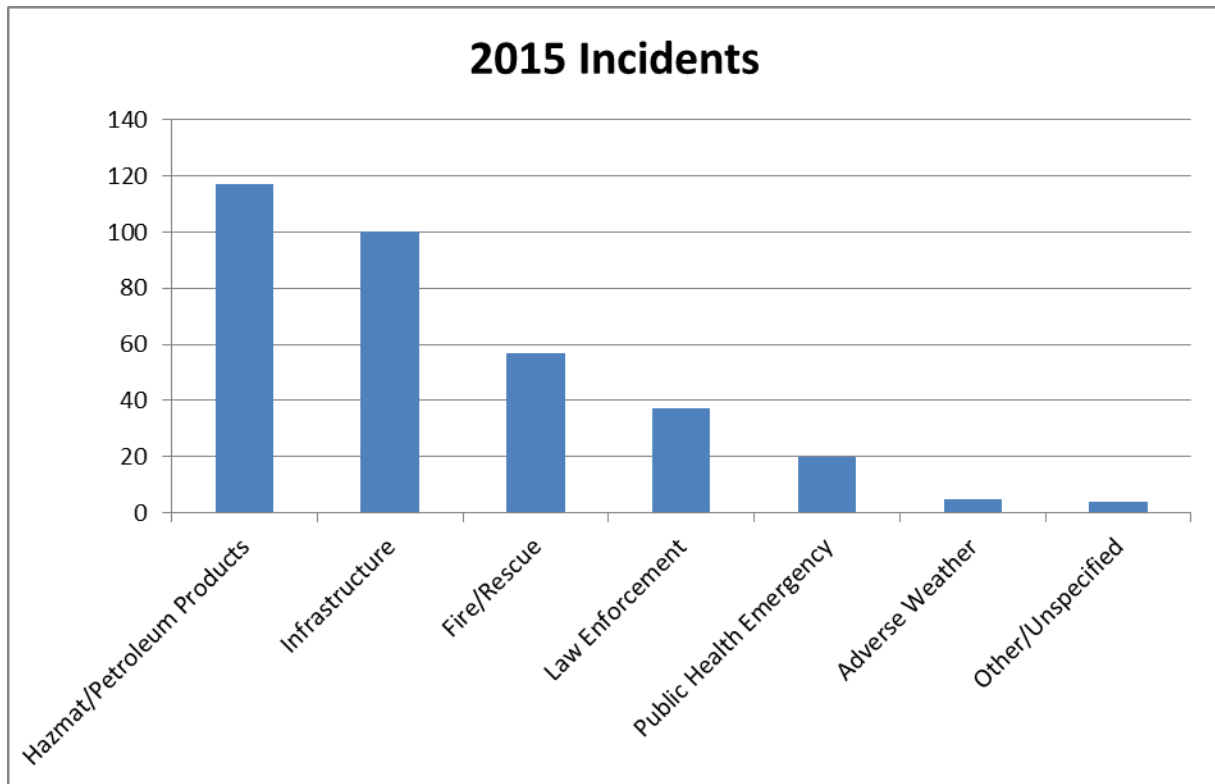
The position also manages the County's website and coordinates/manages County social media pages.

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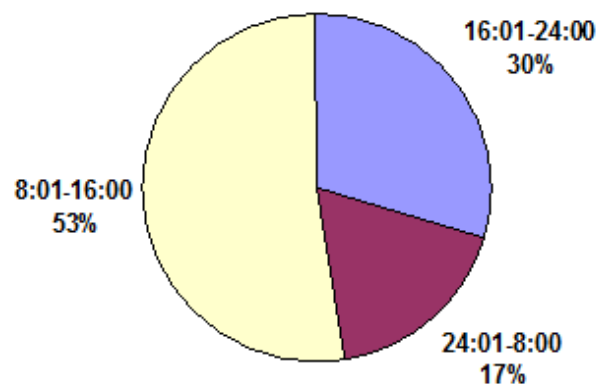
## Yearly Incident Summary

The Pennsylvania Emergency Incident Reporting System (PEIRS) establishes standard criteria for reporting incidents to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) that affect the safety, security, health and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth.



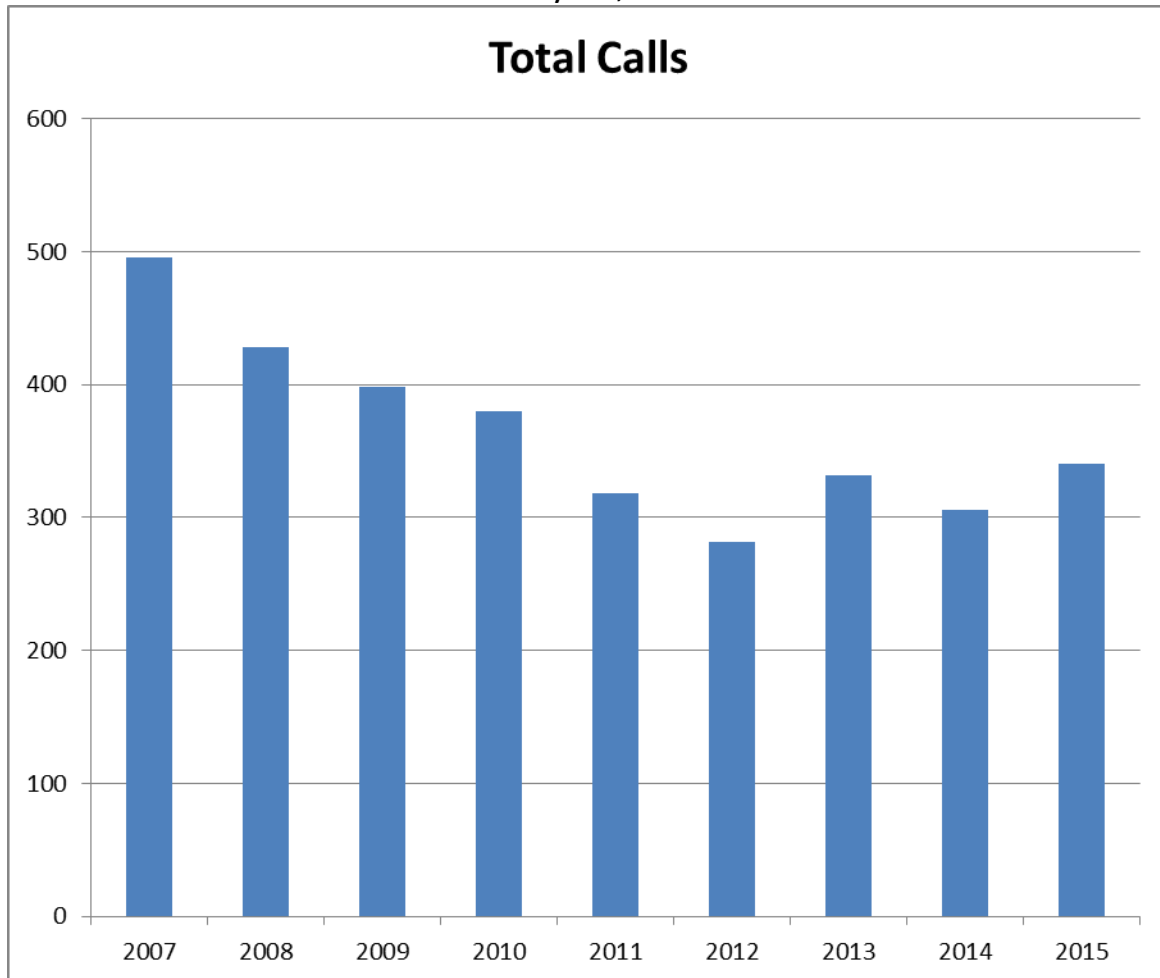
The chart above includes all categories. There were a total of 340 calls for the year.

The following chart shows that over half of our incidents occur during normal business hours.



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The total call volume increased this year, from 306 in 2014 to 340 in 2015.



## 2015 Leading Incidents

The categories below include all incidents impacting the reporting process.

